

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-6 (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a reformat, comprising:
a temperature elevating step of heating a selective oxidation catalyst to elevate
temperature thereof, said selective oxidation catalyst being for selectively oxidizing carbon
monoxide in said reformat with air for selective oxidation, and wherein a temperature of said
selective oxidation catalyst is elevated to a temperature not lower than 120°C and not higher
than 200°C in said temperature elevating step;

a selective oxidation catalyst activating step of, after said temperature of said selective
oxidation catalyst has been elevated in said temperature elevating step, supplying said
reformat, said reformat being formed in a reforming step of forming said reformat from a
hydrocarbon fuel by steam reforming reaction, to said selective oxidation catalyst for a
predetermined time, without supplying said air for selective oxidation, to activate said
selective oxidation catalyst; [[and]]

a carbon monoxide removing step of removing carbon monoxide in said reformat,
formed in said reforming step, by said selective oxidation thereof with said air for selective
oxidation using said activated selective oxidation catalyst;

said reformat being supplied to a fuel cell stack; and
wherein said temperature elevating step, said selective oxidation catalyst activating
step, and said carbon monoxide removing step being performed during start operation of said
fuel cell stack.

8. (Previously Presented) A method for treating a reformat as recited in claim 7,
wherein said heating in said temperature elevating step is carried out using a heat generated
by an electric heater.

9. (Previously Presented) A method for treating a reformat as recited in claim 7,

wherein said heating in said temperature elevating step is carried out using a heat of oxidation generated by oxidation of combustible gas components in said reformate, formed in said reforming step, by said air for selective oxidation using said selective oxidation catalyst.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) A method for treating a reformate as recited in claim 7, wherein said heating in said temperature elevating step is carried out using a heat of combustion generated in a combustion step of combusting a combustion fuel using a combustion catalyst.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for treating a reformate, comprising:
carbon monoxide removing means, filled with a selective oxidation catalyst, for removing carbon monoxide in said reformate, formed in reforming means for forming said reformate from a hydrocarbon fuel by steam reforming reaction, by selective oxidation thereof with air for selective oxidation;
temperature elevating means for elevating temperature of said selective oxidation catalyst; and
control means for performing a control such that said temperature of said selective oxidation catalyst is elevated by said temperature elevating means, that said reformate is supplied in a predetermined amount to said selective oxidation catalyst, whose temperature has been elevated, without supplying said air for selective oxidation, and that, after said reformate has been supplied in said predetermined amount, supply of said air for selective oxidation to said selective oxidation catalyst is started.

16. (Withdrawn) A fuel cell electric power generating system, comprising: an apparatus for treating a reformate as recited in claim 15, and a fuel cell for generating an electric power by electrochemical reaction of said reformate, from which carbon monoxide has been removed, with an oxidizing agent gas.

17. (New) A method for treating a reformate as recited in claim 8, wherein said electric heater is wound around an outer periphery of a selective oxidation section filled with said selective oxidation catalyst.